

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of this response. Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-12 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 4, 8 and 13 have been canceled.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment after Final in that it places the present application in condition for allowance. More specifically, Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, and 9 to include allowable subject matter previously set forth in claims 4, 8, and 13, respectively. Such an amendment does not raise any new issues requiring further consideration and/or search.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-3, 5 and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Piirainen (U.S. Patent No. 6, 748,031, hereinafter referred to Piirainen).

As discussed above, Applicants have amended claims 1, 5 and 9 to include allowable subject matter previously set forth in claims 4, 8 and 13, respectively. As such, Applicants submit that claims 1, 5 and 9 are in condition for allowance.

Further, Applicants submit that 2, 3 and 10-12 are also allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claims 1, 5 and 9.

CONCLUSION

In view of above remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Andrew M. Waxman, Reg. No. 56,007 at the number listed below.

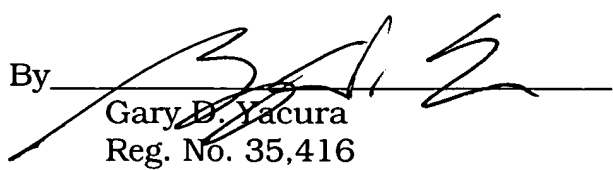
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants respectfully petition for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$450.00 is attached.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, PLC

By


Gary D. Yacura
Reg. No. 35,416

GDY/AMW:jcp

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, VA 20195
(703) 668-8000